

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RIVERSIDE-SAN BERNARDINO METROPOLITAN STATISTICAL AREA (MSA)  
(RIVERSIDE AND SAN BERNARDINO COUNTIES)

The unemployment rate in the Riverside-San Bernardino MSA was 5.4 percent in October 2004, down from a revised 5.7 percent in September 2004, and below the year-ago estimate of 6.1 percent. This compares with an unadjusted unemployment rate of 5.6 percent for California and 5.1 percent for the nation during the same period. The unemployment rate was 5.8 percent for Riverside County and 5.0 percent in San Bernardino County.

Farm employment decreased by 200 jobs between September and October 2004, a normal seasonal change. Year-over farm employment decreased by 100 jobs.

Total nonfarm employment in the Riverside-San Bernardino MSA increased by 9,400 jobs between September and October 2004 to reach 1,123,900 jobs. Government employment grew by 3,500 jobs, primarily in state and local government education. With the continuing return of students to classrooms, the educational and health services industry added 2,100 jobs, with educational services leading the way. Trade, transportation and utilities grew by 1,800 jobs. The majority of this gain was concentrated in the retail trade sector (up 1,500 jobs). Leisure and hospitality added 1,000 jobs to its payrolls, with gains in virtually all categories. Other industries with month-over job gains include professional and business services (up 600 jobs); financial activities (up 300 jobs); construction (up 200 jobs); and information (up 200 jobs). Employment in manufacturing declined by 200 jobs, while other services lost 100 jobs. Employment in the natural resources and mining industry remained unchanged month-over.

Year-over, total nonfarm employment in the Riverside-San Bernardino MSA rose by 26,500 jobs from 1,097,400 in October 2003 to 1,123,900 in October 2004, a growth rate of 2.4 percent. The trade, transportation and utilities industry added 8,000 jobs. The majority of this gain was concentrated in the retail trade sector (up 5,500 jobs). Professional and business services employment grew by 6,000, with administrative and support services leading the way. The leisure and hospitality industry added 4,600 jobs, led by food services and drinking places. Other industries with year-over job gains include government (up 4,200 jobs); educational and health services (up 1,900 jobs); financial activities (up 1,300 jobs); construction (up 600 jobs); and manufacturing (up 500 jobs). Employment in the information industry declined by 500 jobs, while natural resources and mining lost 100 jobs. Other services showed no change over the year.